



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

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Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting

February 27, 2025

Members Present

Chief Craig Branch, Chair
Ed Macon (Proxy for Karl
Hade), Vice Chair
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.
Ebony Clark
Maria Jankowski
Sheriff Brian Hieatt

Members Absent

Russell "Rusty" McGuire

I. Call to Order

Chief Branch called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM

II. Roll Call

Chief Branch asked Wendy Lohr Hopp to conduct the Roll Call. Wendy stated there was a quorum with six members present. All members joined the meeting by electronic communication.

III. Introductions/ Opening Comments

Chief Branch officially welcomed guests and any agency dignitaries.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the November 25, 2024 meeting. A motion was made by Sheriff Hieatt to approve the minutes and was seconded by Ms. Clark.

V. Grant Review

- a. **CIT/Marcus Alert Grant Program (CITMA) – Law Enforcement Division, Patrick Long**

The purpose of the Marcus Alert/Crisis Intervention Team Grant Program is to provide law enforcement agencies a one-time grant for the purchasing, operating, and maintenance of co-responder teams that operate under Marcus Alert. State General Funds totaling \$2,200,000 were available for Co-Response Team Grants.

DCJS received 14 applications with requests totaling \$738,774. After reviewing the applications, staff recommends the approval of 12 applications in the amount of \$608,596.

Two applications totaling \$130,178 were not recommended for funding. These applications requested equipment that does not pertain to de-escalation or crisis intervention strategies, or the locality does not operate a Marcus Alert/Co-Response Program.

In summary, DCJS staff request **approval to fund 12 grant applications** for the 12-month period (7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025), **totaling \$608,596**, using State General Funds allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. Macon and seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

b. Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) Sheriff's Offices – Division of Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Tracy Matthews

The purpose of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) funds is to allow states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS has the responsibility of managing the coordination and distribution of JAG funds in a manner that supports and improves the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This competitive funding opportunity was open to all local Sheriff's Offices that were not considered the lead law enforcement agency within their locality. Applicants were invited to submit applications to purchase equipment that improves or enhances the delivery of daily law enforcement services to the community and/or ensures the safety of citizens and officers.

DCJS received and reviewed 14 applications requesting \$620,802, to ensure the applications contained allowable items and accurate budget calculations. The request included \$465,604 in federal JAG funds, with \$155,198 in local matching funds.

Staff recommends approval to award \$430,054 in federal JAG funds, with \$143,348 local match, totaling \$573,402, to 14 local Sheriff's Offices.

This recommendation funds all requests, with the exception on a few items that were unallowed. No grants were denied for this JAG funding opportunity. In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund 14 grant applications to Sheriff's Offices for the 6-month period (4/1/2025 – 9/30/2025), totaling \$573,402 using \$430,054 in federal JAG funds and a local cash match of \$143,348.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to fund ten projects** for the three-calendar year period (1/1/2025–12/31/2027), **totaling \$1,301,514**, using state special funds designated for this purpose.

There was discussion regarding specific requests and the broad range of projects allowed under BJAG funding. A motion was made by Mr. Macon approved and seconded by Sheriff Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

c. **Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) State Agencies – Division of Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Tracy Matthews**

The purpose of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) funds is to allow states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS is responsible for managing the coordination and distribution of JAG funds in a manner that supports and improves the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This competitive funding opportunity was open to state agencies with a law enforcement focus or divisions. Applicants were invited to submit applications to purchase equipment that improves or enhances the delivery of daily law enforcement services to the community and/or ensures the safety of citizens and officers.

DCJS received six (6) applications with requests totaling \$446,957. After grant review, DCJS recommends the approval of all six (6) grants totaling \$446,957.

No applications were denied for this JAG funding opportunity.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to fund six (6) applications to State Agencies** for the 6-month period (4/1/2025 – 9/30/2025), **totaling \$446,957** using federal JAG funds allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion regarding the OSIG law enforcement authority and a request for additional information regarding the DMV VIN forensic devices. A motion was made by Sheriff Hieatt and seconded by Officer Evans. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

d. School Safety Personnel or Programming (SSP) Grant Program – Division of Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Tracy Matthews

The purpose of the School Safety Personnel and Programming Grant Program aims to provide funding for relevant school safety personnel within school divisions and law-enforcement agencies, and fund expenses related to the equipment necessary for relevant school safety personnel and the enhancement of the school-law enforcement partnership through training and programming. This funding opportunity aims to promote the safety of students and school staff through the use and implementation of positions and programming to prevent crime and violence. Funding originates from COV §9.1-110 School Resource Officer Grants Program and School Resource Officer Incentive Grants Fund.

DCJS received 12 applications with requests totaling \$2,831,000. After review, staff recommends approval to award \$1,887,100 in state grant funds, with \$926,852 in required local matching funds, totaling \$2,813,952 for all 12 new grant projects. This funding will fund 18 Behavior Interventionist/ Specialists, 10 Emergency Managers/ Division Safety Supervisors, and 1 Division Threat Assessment Director.

No applications were denied for this funding opportunity.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to fund 12 applications** for School Safety Personnel for the 12-month period (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026), totaling **\$2,813,952** with State General Funds.

There was discussion about the potential for continuation of this funding and how the positions differ from SRO/SSO. A motion was made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Macon. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

e. Drive to Work Grant Program (DTWP) – Adult Justice Programs, Cynthia Nwarache

The purpose of the Drive to Work Grant Program (DTWP) is to assist low income and previously incarcerated individuals with restoring their driving privileges so that they can drive to work and maintain employment. Drive to Work is the only organization that provides legal assistance to help individuals whose licenses are suspended by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to reinstate their driver's license. Drive to Work also provides educational services to individuals wishing to have their licenses reinstated. This program is currently funded through \$75,000 in state general funds and an additional \$75,000 in federal funds when available. The federal funds have historically come from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

DCJS received one application for the DTWP requesting a total of \$150,000, with \$75,000 in state general funds and \$75,000 in federal funds. After reviewing the application, staff recommends the approval of the application in the total amount of \$150,000.

No applications were denied with this funding opportunity.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to fund the DTWP application** for fiscal year 2026 (7/1/2025–6/30/2026), **totaling \$150,000**, using state general funds and federal funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion on how law changes may impact this funding and whether the program is statewide. A motion was made by Officer Evans and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

f. Addiction Recovery Grant Program (ARGP) – Adult Justice Programs, Patricia Shaw

The purpose of the Addiction Recovery Grant Program (ARGP) is to develop a model addiction recovery program that may be administered by Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, Jail Officials, Administrators, or Superintendents in any local or regional jail. The programs will be based on best practices suggested by existing research, related standards developed for substance use disorder treatment and criminal justice programming, as well as what experts and experienced practitioners have found to work best for interventions in criminal justice settings.

There are currently four (4) ARGP programs in Virginia; all receive grant funding from DCJS at \$38,400 per program per year. **For State Fiscal Year 2026, DCJS received four (4) applications with requests totaling \$153,600. DCJS staff recommends the approval of all four applications in the amount of \$153,600; \$38,400 each.**

No applications were denied with the funding opportunity.

In summary, DCJS staff request **approval to fund four (4) grant applications** for the 12-month fiscal year (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026), **totaling \$153,600**, using State General Funds allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. Macon and seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

g. Operation Ceasefire Grant Program (OCGP) – Office of Safer Communities and Youth Services, Jennifer Quitiquit

The purpose of this Operation Ceasefire grant initiative is to support the use of technology that will result in reducing violent crime within the Commonwealth while implementing effective and sustainable solutions to intercept and eliminate local cycles of violence. Projects funded under this program will support local initiatives to fight violent crime by providing resources for law enforcement.

DCJS received 61 applications totaling \$7,482,289. After reviewing the applications, staff recommends approval of 56 applications totaling \$4,936,867.

Five applications in the amount of \$832,900 were not recommended for funding. Of the five not recommended for funding, three are current recipients of substantial earmarked funding under the Safer Communities Program and two applicants submitted insufficient information to justify the funding.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to fund 56 grant applications** for the 12-month period (7/1/25-6/30/26) **totaling \$4,936,867** using State Special Funds allocated for this purpose.

There as discussion on whether those who were denied will be eligible for other funding opportunities. A motion was made by Mr. Macon and seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

h. Children’s Justice Act Grant Program (CJA) – Office of Safer Communities and Youth Services, Jenna Foster

The purpose of this Children’s Justice Act (CJA) one-time grant funding opportunity is to support child-serving entities in the following areas:

- Trauma-informed child friendly spaces,
- Forensic interview equipment,
- Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Development and Enhancement, and
- Volunteer Support and Recruitment.

Further, because of the source of funding, these grants must support improvement of the investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

DCJS received 36 applications totaling \$628,295. After reviewing the applications, staff recommends approval of 25 applications totaling \$380,078.

Eleven applications are recommended for denial. Applicants that requested unallowable expenses or those that did not clearly justify the request for funds were not selected for funding.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to fund 25 grant applications** for the 6-month period (4/1/25-9/30/25), **totaling \$380,078**, using Federal CJA funds allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion on why Colonial Heights was denied. A motion was made by Mr. Macon and seconded by Sheriff Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. There were no recusals are noted.

VI. Old Business

No Old Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VII. New Business

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting.

IX. Announcements

Chief Branch announced that the next Grants Committee meeting will be held April 24, 2025.

X. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Officer Evans. The motion passed by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.

Recusals

Sheriff Brian Hieatt

- Application #548019 - Tazewell County.